

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT / PARTICIPATION

This minimum control measure is a key component to the stormwater management program as it helps to ensure broader public support, and shorter implementation schedules, as well as provide a broader base of knowledge. Persons who are personally involved with the decision making process are less likely to challenge the program and can provide a valuable resource of knowledge that will be beneficial to the development, implementation and enforcement of the program.

2.1 REQUIREMENTS

Compliance with applicable State and local public notice and Freedom of Information regulations are required when implementing a public involvement/participation program. Where notice requirements are inconsistent, the notice provisions providing for the most notice and opportunity for public comment shall be followed.

The development of a public involvement/participation program that includes the public in developing, implementing, and reviewing the stormwater management program is required.

Appropriate BMP's and measurable goals for this minimum control measure must be determined. This must include the persons(s) or position(s) responsible and implementation goals for each BMP.

2.2 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following BMP's were utilized in the implementation of the program to address the minimum control measure for Public Participation and Involvement. As of January 2015 the Department will continue to provide public information sessions by those within the Department who have updated the current plan. Those that have reviewed, commented, and provided input for the current update are comprised of various units throughout CTDOT.

2.2.1 CTDOT NPDES Phase II Working Committee

As part of the development of the stormwater management plan, a working committee was established with representatives of several units within the Department including, Aviation and Ports, Construction, Consultant Design, Environmental Compliance, Environmental Planning, Hydraulics and Drainage, Maintenance (Highway Operations), Property and Facilities, Public Relations, Public Transportation, State Design, Rights of Way, Surveys and the Department's consultant for this assignment, Maguire Group Inc.

During the development of the plan, the committee met on a regular basis to discuss relevant issues and provide input and guidance in the development of the plan. The committee met on a biweekly basis beginning in July 2002 through the completion of the stormwater management plan in 2004. A list of the members of the working committee can be found in the introduction (Table I-1).

The benefits associated with this BMP include the participation and knowledge of representatives of the units involved in planning, design, construction and maintenance within the Department, which covers a wide range of disciplines.

2.2.2 Public Information Meetings – Stormwater Management Plan Development

Public information meetings were held during the development of the Stormwater Management Plan to allow for public participation and comment. The meetings were held at the following locations and dates in each of the Department's four district.

- **District 1**
February 20, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Connecticut Department of
Transportation
Conference A-B
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT
- **District 2**
February 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Waterford Town Hall
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT
- **District 3**
February 27, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Stratford Town Hall
2nd Floor Council Chambers
2725 Main Street
Stratford, CT
- **District 4**
February 25, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Council of Governments of Central
Naugatuck Valley
Lombard Building, Room 300
20 East Main Street
Waterbury, CT

The public information meetings were conducted by the CTDOT along with the Department's consultant for this assignment. The purpose of the meetings was to provide information, answer questions, and receive comments on CTDOT's Draft Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). A handout was provided that included copies of presentation slides, the SWMP executive summary and introduction, and a copy of the State contract for laboratory services. The presentation was followed by a comment period, where individuals could discuss specific topics in detail.

The meetings were attended by a total of 74 people including municipal representatives, public works directors, town engineers and town management from many towns within the districts. Employees of the regional planning agencies, as well as CTDOT employees and some environmental groups also attended.

Generally, the comments resulting from the presentation related to specific details about how the Department would coordinate with the towns in situations where there was overlap between state and municipal facilities. Questions pertaining to the requirements of the CTDEEP general permit (state and municipal) including specific dates and deadlines were also posed. In addition, there was an interest in the availability of state resources for use with municipal general permits and storm water management plans.

The attendees were informed that the CTDOT would make information and materials available in the future to aid in the development of their own stormwater management plans. A digital copy of the Department's SWMP was provided upon request.

The public comments resulting from the information meetings were recorded, reviewed and implemented as appropriate.

The benefits associated with this BMP include the accumulation of ideas from a diverse audience and all interests who can share their knowledge and concerns. Public meetings are an excellent way to inform the public about stormwater impacts in addition to gaining support for the proposed stormwater management plan and program. Key issues, especially those that directly affect the public, can be described during these meetings to increase awareness of the Departments and public's role in the program including responsibility, implementation dates, and expected benefits.

*SWMP Public
Information Meetings*



2.2.3 Brochures at Public Information Meetings

Brochures addressing the effects of stormwater quality on the environment have and will continue to be developed. Similar to Section 1 these brochures will allow for quick conveyance of factual information in regards to stormwater for public usage.

Public hearings / information meetings are conducted by the Department at various locations throughout the state on a continuous basis as part of the Department's design process. This will allow the public the opportunity to comment and participate in the development of stormwater management plans for specific projects during the design development process.